

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force**

Friday, June 05, 2009, 11:00 AM  
Coconut Creek Community Center

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

City of Coconut Creek Vice-Mayor Lisa Aronson welcomed the two Task Forces to the City of Coconut Creek. Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs welcomed all to Broward County. She talked a bit about how the Broward Water Resources Task Force (Broward WRTF) was formed and the importance of meeting with the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force (Palm Beach WRTF), as developing sustainable water resources is a regional issue. Broward WRTF Chair Shannon Estenoz thanked all for attending to address this important issue. Palm Beach County WRTF Chair Jeff Koons expressed his pleasure in having the two Task Forces meet to discuss regional water issues. He briefly discussed how the Palm Beach County WRTF was formed. A quorum was announced for both Task Forces and Ms. Estenoz called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

#### **II. WRTF UPDATES**

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director of the Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division and Broward WRTF Technical Team member, introduced herself and gave a short presentation on the evolution of the Broward WRTF and what it has been working on since its inception to address water supply concerns. She indicated that the municipalities and utilities in Broward County realized early on the merits of exploring regional and sub-regional strategies to meet future water needs. To date, Broward WRTF members have heard presentations that gave them familiarity with the existing water systems in Broward County and they have discussed the role of the Broward WRTF Technical Team in supporting the Broward WRTF. Dr. Jurado explained to the audience that the members of the Broward WRTF have been provided with information on current and impending water resource issues, including reuse, and have had several discussions concerning the C-51 Reservoir Project and programs and policies that are needed to provide improvement to water resource management within Broward County.

Ken Todd, P.E., Chair of the Palm Beach County WRTF, gave a short presentation on the origins of the Palm Beach County WRTF and what it has been working on since their first meeting in February 2009. Mr. Todd indicated that the Palm Beach County WRTF has spent most of its time since February addressing the C-51 Reservoir Project as this project has both environmental and water supply benefits. One other issue that the group has discussed deals with being able to store water within a drainage district system differently from the way it has been done in the past. By managing control elevations differently during the wet and dry seasons, it was felt that storage for use

during the drier times of the year might be provided. Additionally, the Palm Beach County WRTF has been briefed on some the operational concerns associated with different systems within Palm Beach County, including the Loxahatchee and C-18 Canal.

### **III. STATUS UPDATE ON C-51 RESERVOIR PROJECT PHASE 2A SCOPE OF WORK**

Albert Carbon, P.E., Public Works Director for the City of Fort Lauderdale, and Brian Shields, P.E., Deputy Director of the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department, jointly gave a presentation outlining the Scope of Work for the C-51 Reservoir Project Phase 2A Study (an alternative water supply project). Mr. Carbon discussed how the project would work and the costs involved. He outlined the key accomplishments and conclusions of the preliminary study, including:

1. Project would meet additional potable water supply needs for portions of Southeast Florida, as well as some environmental restoration objectives
2. Project needs to be developed in a framework of a regional water supply
3. Preliminary total project costs are \$363 million or \$2.70/gallon of water

Mr. Shields discussed what the next steps should be for the study. There are certain key issues that need to be examined in Phase 2A before a more extensive and costly Phase 2 Study is completed. He indicated that these issues are the “deal killers” that can be examined without extensive cost. The key issues that are being planned in the Phase 2A Scope, as directed by both Task Forces, are as follows:

1. Update the raw water demand projections based on recently revised population projections
2. Water conveyance/water quality issues
3. Geologic/hydrologic data compilation
4. Cost effectiveness and sensitivity analysis

Mr. Shields explained that the Utility Coalition still has money in its budget to complete the Phase 2A Study. Should the results from this phase of the study indicate the project is still feasible, then a more-detailed Phase 2 study can be discussed. Mr. Shields and Mr. Carbon recommended to the Task Forces that the Phase 2A Study move forward and that the consultants continue to work with District staff throughout the study.

### **IV. SFWMD PRESENTATION ON C-51 RESERVOIR PROJECT**

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff gave a presentation on the issues they felt needed to be included in the Phase 2A Study of the C-51 Reservoir Project. Tom Oliff, Assistant Executive Director, said the District was encouraged that the two counties were working together. He indicated that because SFWMD staff felt this project had possible regional impact to several departments (O & M, CERP, Administration, Water Supply), they have been reviewing the information provided by

the Utility Coalition. Mr. Oliff indicated that the population demands need to be revisited in light of the economic downturn that could result in smaller population increases than those that were projected earlier in the Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (LEC Plan). These new projections could buy water providers some “breathing room” as they develop new water supplies. He mentioned that traditional water sources are no longer available as a result of the Regional Water Availability Rule (which limits withdrawals from the Biscayne Aquifer) and so alternative water supplies do need to be explored. He also pointed to the role that increasing conservation efforts could play in meeting future demands. He went on to say that water supplies should be looked at on a more regional and sub-regional basis and less on a utility by utility basis, which is no longer cost-effective. He reviewed the types of alternative water sources that can be pursued, some of the associated projects either completed or underway, and emphasized the importance and benefits of pursuing conservation efforts. He discussed the growing importance of reuse/reclaimed water and addressing saltwater intrusion through the use of saltwater barriers.

Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Assistant Deputy Director, discussed the District’s views on the issues associated with the C-51 Reservoir Project. Mr. Strowd said the final study needed to include considerations for: (1) how to construct the facility, (2) conveyance of the water, including water quality issues, (3) consistency of the project with the Regional Water Availability Rule, and (4) compatibility with Everglades Restoration (including River of Grass planning).

Mr. Oliff provided some concluding remarks, noting the importance of working together collectively to look at all alternatives, not just the C-51 Reservoir Project.

## **V. TASK FORCE DISCUSSION**

General discussion ensued among the two Task Forces about several issues, such as population projections and planning for additional reservoirs that would store water instead of wasting it to tide. It was also mentioned by one member that CERP projects would probably not capture all the water necessary to rehydrate the Everglades, therefore some of the “excess” water currently being wasted to tide may not be available for other purposes, if it is needed elsewhere.

Ms. Estenoz responded that she felt the Phase 2A Study of the C-51 Reservoir Project should be moved forward, provided the District’s comments were included in the Study scope of work. District staff reiterated that they are not opposed to the C-51 Reservoir Project and they believe that the next level of study (Phase 2A) is the appropriate progression before any decision is made as to the feasibility of the project.

The public was given an opportunity to provide comments on what was presented at the meeting. Regarding the C-51 Reservoir Project, a representative of the U.S. Department of Interior expressed concern over possible impacts of water flowing through the Water Conservation Areas. A representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service expressed concern about possible impacts of the C-51 Reservoir Project to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge due to water quality, endangered species, and conveyance issues of untreated stormwater within the L-40 Canal. Several other individuals expressed concern about the C-51 Reservoir Project and indicated the need to pursue conservation and reuse as priorities.

Following general discussion and public comments, the Broward WRTF voted unanimously to support the Utility Coalition's efforts on the Phase 2A Study, provided District, Department of Interior, and National Wildlife Refuge comments are incorporated into the study. The Utility Coalition representatives indicated that they would work with the Department of Interior and National Wildlife Refuge staff during the study. The Coalition will bring back to a future Task Force meeting the revised Phase 2A Study Scope of Work, with District comments included.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 PM.

#### **Broward WRTF Members and Alternates:**

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek  
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District BOC  
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood  
Peter Bober, Mayor, City of Hollywood  
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach  
Shannon Estenoz **(Chair)**, SFWMD Governing Board Member  
Lamar Fisher, Mayor, City of Pompano Beach  
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac  
Thomas Good, Commissioner and Vice Chair, South Broward Drainage District  
Kristin Jacobs **(Vice Chair)**, Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill  
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines  
Charlotte Rodstrom, Vice Mayor and Commissioner, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise  
Allegra Webb-Murphy, Vice Mayor, City of Oakland Park

#### **Broward WRTF Tech Team Members:**

Steven Bassett, Representative, So. Fla. Ch. Green Bldg. Council  
William Brant, Public Works Director, City of Hallandale Beach  
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation  
Linda Brien, Administrator, Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District  
Randy Brown **(Vice Chair)**, Utilities Director, City of Pompano Beach  
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director of Utilities Operations, Town of Davie  
Hector Castro, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise  
Heather Cuniff, City Planner, City of Lauderhill  
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac

Todd Hiteshew for Julie Leonard, Asst. Utility Services Director, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County NRPMD  
Dylan Larson, Miller Legg and Representative of Builders Assoc. of So. Fla.  
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Div.  
Albert Perez **(Chair)**, Director of Public Utilities, City of Hollywood  
Raj Verma, Director of Utilities and Engineering, City of Coconut Creek  
David Womacks, Public Work Director, City of Oakland Park

**Palm Beach County WRTF Members and Alternates:**

James Alderman, Governing Board Member, Lake Worth Drainage District  
Dan Beatty, Official, North Palm Beach County Improvement District for O'Neal Bardin  
Steve Bedner, Representative, Eastern Palm Beach County Farmers  
Betty Bingham, Vice Mayor, Town of Ocean Ridge  
John Flanigan, Attorney, Representing Environmental Interests  
Jay Foy, Vice Mayor, Town of Haverhill  
Susan Haynie, Deputy Mayor, City of Boca Raton  
Jeff Koons **(Chair)**, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
David Levy **(Vice Chair)**, Vice Mayor, City of Palm Beach Gardens  
Dennis Lipp, Councilmember, Town of Loxahatchee Groves  
Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, SFWMD Water Resources  
Patrick Rooney, SFWMD Governing Board Member  
David Stewart, Mayor, City of Lantana (for Steve Wilson)  
Shelley Vana, Commissioner, Palm Beach County  
John Whitworth, Governing Board Member, Lake Work Drainage District  
Ted Winsberg, Representative, Boynton Farmers  
Todd Wodraska, Vice Mayor, Town of Jupiter

**Palm Beach County WRTF Working Group:**

Mike Baker, Lake Worth Drainage District  
Linda Brien, Administrator, Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District  
Rebecca Elliott, FDACS  
Juan Guevarez, Palm Beach County Utilities  
Pete Kwiatkowski, Director, SFWMD Resource Evaluation Division  
Ken Todd **(Chair)**, Water Resources Manager, Palm Beach County

**Other Guests:**

Dana Ackerman-White, Palm Beach County  
Anita Allen, Broward County WWS  
Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, SFWMD Water Resources  
Mikkie Belvedere, Commissioner, City of Coconut Creek  
Frank Bernardino  
Karen Brandon, Aecom  
Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, City of Fort Lauderdale

Ben Chen, Chen & Associates  
Christy Coghlan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Carol Connolly, Lake Worth Drainage District  
Laura Corry, Lead Intergovt. Rep., SFWMD Palm Beach Service Center  
Ronald Crone  
John Crouse, Water Management Division Director, Broward County WWS  
Grazia Damasceno  
Nick Damasceno  
Patrick Davis, Hazen & Sawyer  
Rosa Durando, Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Toni Edwards, Water Resources Manager, Broward County NRPMD  
Jim Fandrey  
Freddy Fisikelli, Councilmember, Town of Southwest Ranches  
Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair, Broward Soil and Water Conservation District  
Barry Heimlich, Florida Atlantic University-CUES  
Fran Henderson, Broward County WWS  
Steve Joseph, City of Hollywood  
Chad Kennedy, FDEP Southeast District Office  
Steve Lamb, Vice President, McVicar, Federico and Lamb, Inc.  
Alexandra Larson, Taxpayer Watchdog  
Joan Lawrence, Senior Policy Advisor, Everglades Initiatives, U. S. Department of the Interior  
Beth Lewis, Senior Attorney, SFWMD  
Keith London, Commissioner, City of Hallandale Beach, and Broward Water Advisory Board Member  
Jose Lopez, Lead Project Manager, SFWMD Broward Service Center  
Bill Louda, Councilman, Town of Loxahatchee Groves  
Stew Magenheimer, CDM  
Drew Martin, Supervisor, Palm Beach County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Pat Martin, Lake Worth Drainage District  
Kristin Meltin, de la Parte & Gilbert, P.A.  
Tom Miller, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department  
Marcia Monserrat, Broward County, Office of Commissioner Kristin D. Jacobs  
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch  
Carole Morris, Lead Intergovt. Rep., SFWMD Broward Service Center  
Patrick Mullen, Vice President, MWH Americas, Inc.  
Martha Musgrove, Representative, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Eric Myers, Asst. Director Broward County EPGMD  
Tom Oliff, Assistant Executive Director, SFWMD  
Mike Owens, Broward County Senior Asst. County Attorney  
Sylvia Pelizza, Refuge Manager, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Nat. Wildlife Refuge  
Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, SFWMD Office of Govt. & Public Affairs  
Robert Rudolph, Manager, Broward County Water Planning Program  
Brian Shields, Deputy Director, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department  
Randy Smith, Media Relations Specialist, SFWMD  
Charlotte St. John, Assistant to the Director, Broward County WWS

Tommy Strowd, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, SFWMD  
Susan Sylvester, Director, SFWMD Operations Control Department  
Reshma Thummadi, Malcolm Pirnie  
Sharon Waite, Homemaker  
Elbert Waters, Director, SFWMD Broward Service Center  
Patti Webster, Environmental Project Coordinator, Broward County NRPMD  
Jacquie Weisblum, Everglades Team Leader, Audubon of Florida  
John Wodraska, Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, Inc.  
Mike Zygnerski, Natural Resource Specialist IV, Broward County NRPMD